

# ANIMAL WELFARE



## ANTIBIOTIC USE

Australia is a world leader in minimising the use of antibiotics in cattle.

The National Residue Survey (NRS) randomly samples beef products at Australian abattoirs for antimicrobial residues. The 2018-19 results found 99.9% compliance across 4,877 random cattle samples. This very high rate of compliance has been maintained, or bettered, every year for 10 years.\*

\*[Antimicrobial stewardship | The Australian Beef Sustainability Framework \(sustainableaustralianbeef.com.au\)](https://www.sustainableaustralianbeef.com.au/antimicrobial-stewardship/)

## FEEDLOTS

Cattle in Australian feedlots are not confined to tiny spaces.

Feeding pens in feedlots can measure up to 6,000m<sup>2</sup> each in size – that's about the size of 14 basketball courts. The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle require a minimum area of 9m<sup>2</sup> per Standard Cattle Unit for cattle held in external pens. Most feedlots provide around 13-15m<sup>2</sup> for the extra comfort of their animals.\*

\*[National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice](https://www.nationalbeefcattle.com.au/feedlot-environmental-code-of-practice/)

## HORMONE USE

Hormone use is strictly regulated in Australia.

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) cites research a single consumer would need to eat more than 77kg of beef from cattle treated with HGP (in one sitting) to get the same level of oestrogen hormone found in one chicken egg. In fact, the bodies of both women and men naturally produce many thousands of times more oestrogen every day than that found in a meal of beef steak.

HGPs have been used safely in Australia for around 30 years and their use is regulated by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) that people can safely eat beef treated with HGPs over their lifetime. HGPs are used to produce more weight from less resources.\*

\*<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumer/generalissues/hormonalgrowth/Pages/default.aspx>

## LIVE EXPORT

Australia is the only country that regulates animal welfare in countries that buy its cattle.

In 2019 the average mortality rate for cattle exports was 0.10%. This is below threshold set by the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock. During all voyages cattle are cared for by trained and accredited stock people, vets and Independent observers.\*

\*<https://livecorp.com.au/welfare#Overview>

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## DEHORNING

Most Australian cattle are bred without horns for improved animal welfare and human safety.

More than 70 per cent of farmers breed genetically polled (hornless) cattle.\*

\*ABSF 2021 Annual Update, page 16

## STANDARDS

Australia's animal welfare standards are some of the most stringent in the world.

Industry has implemented a range of initiatives to address animal welfare concerns and ensure continuous improvement in welfare practices. The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines apply to all people responsible for the care and management of cattle and include legally enforceable standards for feed, water, heat stress, natural disasters, disease, injuries, husbandry and humane killing.\*

\*<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/cattle/>

## TRANSPORT

Strict national standards ensure livestock are well looked after during transport.

The maximum road travel time for cattle is 48 hours. Scientific studies show this has no adverse effect if animals are well hydrated before and after transport. The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines specify the maximum period of time that each livestock species can be held off water during transport.\*

\*<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/files/2015/12/Land-transport-of-livestock-Standards-and-Guidelines-Version-1-1-21-September-2012.pdf>

## USE OF PAIN RELIEF

The use of pain relief for routine surgery is increasing.

An estimated 21% of the national cattle herd are now treated with pain relief for routine and invasive procedures. The Australian beef D1:D8+D3:D8 industry aspires to 100% use of pain relief for these types procedures by 2030.\*

\*[https://www.sustainableaustralianbeef.com.au/globalassets/beef-sustainability/documents/25849-absf-2020-annual-update\\_web-2.pdf](https://www.sustainableaustralianbeef.com.au/globalassets/beef-sustainability/documents/25849-absf-2020-annual-update_web-2.pdf)